The Bells

Thinking it Over

1. The first stanza of “The Bells” describes the jingling sound of silver sleigh bells. What words does the author use to imitate the light, rapid, merry sound of sleigh bells?
2. The second stanza of this poem describes the sound of wedding bells. What words in this stanza express the happiness of a wedding? Can you think of any other words Poe could have used?
3. The third stanza of “The Bells” describes the sounds of alarm bells. What words does the author use to make you think of harsh, loud sounds?
4. The last stanza describes funeral bells. What words does the poet use to express grief or sadness? What other words could have been used?

Source: An Edgar Allen Poe Reader (poems and short stories). Globe Book Company, INC. New York / Chicago / Cleveland. Second Edition 1984.